



NEWS RELEASE

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Safety Improvements at Route 29-234 Intersection Complete

VDOT has completed a \$2 million safety improvement project at the intersection of Route 234 and 29 in the Manassas National Battlefield Park to improve safety for the thousands of commuters and visitors who travel through the intersection each day.

"Thanks to the efforts of Congressman Frank Wolf and the Route 29/234 Task Force, we can say with pride that these much needed and long-awaited safety improvements do not detract from the beauty of the area or impact the Stone House," said Commonwealth Transportation Commissioner Charles D. "Chip" Nottingham. "These improvements will help reduce accidents and keep traffic moving."

Congressman Wolf secured \$2 million in federal funds for the safety improvements in 1998. Task force members included the National Park Service, VDOT, Federal Highway Administration, Prince William County, and AAA. Work began early this year and was completed more than three months ahead of the estimated spring 2002 completion date. The improvements include:

- ?? Adding a left-turn lane to each leg of the intersection to help reduce the number of rear-end accidents;
- ?? Lowering the roadway by two feet on Route 234 north of the intersection to improve sight distance for motorists;
- ?? Installing a pedestrian signal and crosswalk on Route 29, making it easier for visitors to walk from the Visitor's Center to the Stone House;
- ?? Constructing a pedestrian bridge over Young's Branch south of the Route 234 intersection so pedestrians won't have to walk on the shoulder of Route 234 to access the Stone House;
- ?? Relocating the Stone House parking lot to the east and adding left and right turn lanes on Route 29;
- ?? Replacing the Route 29 bridge over Young's Branch to accommodate the turn lanes into the parking lot;
- ?? Improving roadway drainage to eliminate standing water problems; and
- ?? Re-timing traffic signals to keep traffic moving.

In addition, overhead utilities within 500 feet of the intersection are being relocated underground and several parcels in VDOT's right of way have been ceded to the National Park Service as part of the agreement.

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